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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/763,964	01/23/2004	Jonathan M. Katz	VIT.P0030	7906

7590 04/04/2006

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EXAMINER

SOOHOO, TONY GLEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1723

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/763,964

Applicant(s)

KATZ ET AL.

Examiner

Tony G. Soohoo

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1723

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,9-11,13,14 and 16-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,5,9-11,13,14 and 16-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claim 17, 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Fasano 5052892.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13-14, 16-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jonqueres 4147437 in view of Kolar et al 6974099 (based on a provisional application filed May 16, 2003).

The Jonqueres reference discloses a blender blade assembly with plural blades on sides of an impeller shaft f, as seen in figure 1 or figure 1d. Jonqueres teaches that each blade may be configured in an arrangement with a blade wing 1 with a leading edge see the left side of the blade wing 1, and further have an auxiliary flap 2, 3 extending downwardly and at a relative canted angle from that of the leading edge and

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in which the blade wing may narrow along from the root to the top, see figure 1a, 4,5,6,9,11. Also Jonqueres teaches the use of a hooked flap as seen in figure 9 or as discussed as a curved flap in a compound cylindrical-plano-conical shape, col. 4, line 49, 54. The Jonqueres reference also teaches the use of wing tips j, as seen in figure 11, which may be curved with convex or obtuse curvature from the tip, see col. 5, lines 18-25. Whereas the Jonqueres reference discloses that the use of modification of the tip and the trailing edges with flap may be utilized to produce an desired flow regime, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the provision of auxiliary flaps on the trailing edge and the tips as discussed by Jonqueres so as to optimize the flow regime in the vessel.

The Jonqueres reference discloses all of the recited subject matter as defined within the scope of the claims with the exception of the leading edge being beveled. The reference to Kolar (et al) teaches that a blender blade with blade wings may be provided with a leading edge having a beveled edge. In view of the showing of the Kolar reference it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the leading edge of the mixer blade of the Jonqueres reference with a beveled edge so as to provide a more effective blending of material by the mixer blade of Jonqueres.

With regards to claim 19, Jonqueres also teaches that the flaps k, k₁ may be formed upward or downward and flat or curved in shape, see figure 12, col. 5, lines 25-40, it is deemed that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to

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modify the flap angle to an upward as further suggested by the Jonquieres reference in order to optimize the flow regime.

With regards to claims 20-21 as the angle of cant or upward/downward flap angle, the Jonquieres reference discloses the use of a flap in the control of the fluid flow as seen and discussed in figure 1. Whereas the angle of cant or flap angle is merely a modification of the flap geometry in order to produce a desired flow regime, since it has been held that, absent any unexpected result, a mere change in form or shape on the basis of suitability is a matter of obvious mechanical design choice. In re Dailey, 149 USPQ 47 (CCPA 1976). It has been held that rearranging parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. In re Japikse, 86 USPQ 70.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 5, 9-11, 13-14, 16-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Gigas et al 6796707, Boozer et al D 488347, Golobic et al 4519715, kat et al D513685.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

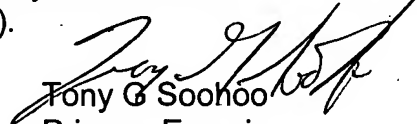
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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tony G. Soohoo whose telephone number is (571) 272 1147. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5PM, Tue-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wanda Walker can be reached on 571-272-1151. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tony G Soohoo
Primary Examiner
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